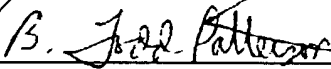


et al. teaches each and every limitation in Applicants' claims 7, 8 and 11-13. Applicants respectfully submit that this is not a proper rejection because *Stevens, et al.*, is disqualified as §102(e) prior art under 35 U.S.C. §103(c). Please see the attached Statement of Common Ownership. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7, 8 and 11-13.

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, neither alone nor in combination, teach, show, or suggest the apparatus of the present invention. Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

The prior art made of record is noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicants' disclosure than the primary references cited in the office action. Therefore, it is believed that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not deemed necessary for a full and complete response to this office action. Accordingly, allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



B. Todd Patterson
Registration No. 37,906
MOSER, PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 1500
Houston, Texas 77056
(713) 623-4844
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT